

WINNER OF THE KODANSHA MANGA OF THE YEAR AWARD!

MU SHI SHI

8·9·10

YUKI URUSHIBARA

アルレイ



MU
SHI
SHI

8·9·10

YUKI
URUSHIBARA

Delacorte Books

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Ginko is a master of the ephemeral life-form known as mushi. Their influence can be as visible as a mountain never giving up its winter to allow for spring, or as subtle as a prank played in a child's game. To some they are a curse, to others they offer unimagined possibility. Read the final three volumes of Ginko's journeys in this one remarkable edition!

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Yuki Urushibara



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See
you
tomor-
row!

We're
going,
Akane-
chan!



Oh!

It's
Mom!



Oh!
Me
too!

So
count
me
out
of
the
game.

I
have
to
go
home.



Who's there?

Do you want to play with me—



The Final Bit of Crimson



I have to
be going
home!

The sun
is going
down.



Where
am I?

I have
to hurry
home!



Here?



Ok, help?



The sun is
going down
earlier and
earlier.





Really!

I don't know how to thank you!

I'm over here!

Hey! Yōsuke-san!

It's Grandpa!



There's not much I can do as thanks, but you can at least stay here if you need shelter.

That'd be a help.



It must have been a lot of work!

I started to think that I picked up something really unusual by the roadside.



If you hadn't happened on her, she'd still be there, I imagine.

My legs aren't all that great anymore. I'd never have been able to make it that far onto the mountain.



Every so often, things like that have been happening at this time of day.



But...

...it must be a worry, not knowing why she went onto the mountain.



...and she tries to leave the house.

She says that she's "going home"...

Just about dusk...

...especially when there's a sunset like today's...



...people say things like that when they get older.

I've heard that in rare cases...

Really -
P



She may have
been trying to
get back to the
house she lived
in back then.



For just a
moment, they
are drawn
back into the
days of their
childhood.



There you
go again,
acting like
I'm feeble-
minded!



Well...

...both
she and I
have
lived a
long
time.



It's true,
isn't it?

I suppose
parts of us
have become
worn-out
here and
there.





That's true!



A marshioki really helped when a marshi caused colic in my daughter and when a *dispage* hit the rice stalks.



...
Hm...



Really?

Now that you mention it, it does feel a little more at ease...



Yeah.

You say this will help my knee...?





It's about
Grandma.



.....
Say...

Ginco-
san...?



I see...



I wonder if
there are some
who never do
remember
things from a
long time ago.

You mentioned
that when
people get
old, they
start recalling
things
from their
childhood...



I don't
know. I
haven't
looked
into it.



Normally a
guy would
forget all
about a thing
like that.

It
happened
a long
time
ago...

...something
suddenly
appeared in
the village.



Are there
things she
doesn't
remember?

Yeah...



I won-
dered...

...just
what
that
thing
was.



But...

...when I
caught
myself
remem-
bering
it...



Okay

You haven't gone home yet?



See you tomorrow!



See you!

Yeah!



.....
Haven't...



Have you seen my daughter, Akane?



Akane-chan!!

Akane!!



Akane...??



And
after
that...



...nobody
ever saw
Akane
again.



...are
you?

Who...



Eventually...

...the one who volunteered to take her in was Akane's father.

...I can only pity that little girl.

Now that I think of it...

It's too bad.

...She never comes over to play.

.....
That girl...

Yeah...

She's really brave...







we decided...

...that this village would be where we would live out our lives together.

We always thought it was natural.



we had children together...

...and grew old together.

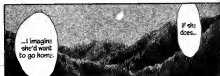


...she and I became husband and wife.



That is, until sunset...

...and she starts to talk about going home.





There's a creature called "Omazadokū."

...and something else appears.

Something gets sucked out of the world as well...



And if that shadow is stepped on or somehow comes underfoot...

They are bodily "sucked in by the Omazadokū," and are exchanged for someone else.



The people who get sucked in by it...

...see the form of a shadow with no one to cast it.





So nobody knows when or where it will connect with ours.

They think the Omagadoki is in a place completely different from our world.



There's no way to predict where a person will appear?



I see...



I hope that...

...Akane is somewhere...

...living a happy life of her own.





Let's keep playing
"Step on the shadow!"



Come on!



Who...

...are you...?



Sh...?





I'll be
back by
sunset.

I know,
I know.



Are
you?

Be sure not
to overdo
it just
because
your leg's
feeling
better.



Whoa!!

Some-
thing
just
came out
of my
leg!



But it
sure
feels
better!



Yes,
sir!

Take
care,
now!



I hauled in a lot of fish...





Grand-
ma...

...went
out
again...!



She...

...may have
finally
remembered
where her
home town
is!

Find
she...



The
sun's
still high
in the
sky.

Maybe
she just
went out
for a
while on
errands...

The
lantern's
gone!







Do you
want to play
with me—



who's
there?!



That
shadow...

...stepped
on my
shadow,
so...













Let's
go
back...

...to our
home.



For all of
this time...

I've been
very
happy.
Too.



And you
were the
source of
that happi-
ness.



Now...

...let's
go back.



For
many
years
after
that...



...the two
of us
lived very
happily
together...



But...



...until
Grandma
was taken
by a
disease
that was
going
around.





I see...
You never...

...stepped
on
anybody
else's
shadow,
huh?

—



But
why are
you...

Have you
stayed
this way
the whole
time?



I'm
sorry...

...who
stepped
on your
shadow.

I married
the very
same girl...



You were
always...

...the
richest
child there
was!
Through
and
through!



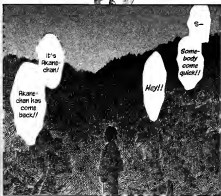


Where
are you
going?

Wait!

Don't
go!!
Akane!!

.....
Huh?





I don't like the looks of this...

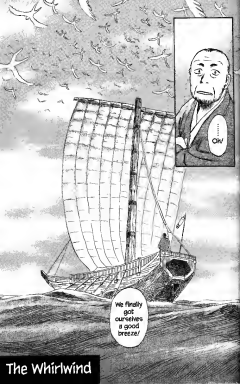


Yes, sir!!

Hey you jerks!!

I want to see you put your backs into your rowing!!





'We finally
got
ourselves
a good
breeder.'

The Whirlwind







We
mushi-
shi...

...use these
rock-flutes
to call
them to us
sometimes,
but...

...who
taught
you to do
that?



They're
a mushi
called
Torikaze.



And it had
an effect
on them.



I just used
to whistle
to make
myself feel
better.

.....
Nobody.



Really?

That's
pretty
amazing.

How do
you do
it?













Hey!
Budd!

Come
over
here!



Well, that'll
happen
someday
soon.

See
you.
Give
it your
best.



And you've
finally
stopped
being a
burden on
the crew!

Do you think
I should talk
to the ship's
owner about
making you
an official
seaman?



That would
be great!
Thank you
so much!!



You
know.

...for a
while there
today,
I didn't
know what
to do!

But now!
We got
back well
before
anybody
else!



If we get there early, you can go home for some shore leave.

Your home town is near our next port, right?



Yes, sir!



...maybe they'll be happy for me...



If I tell them that I'm finally providing for myself...





P H W E E E E E



.....
Ah!
Damn it!
He said...



But
nothing...

...is
going
to
happen,
right?



.....
So they
aren't
around.
Just as I
figured.





What are those?

... Hm?



Hey!!
Wake
up!!

We're
taking on
water!!





*We can't
keep up
with it... !!*

*It's no
good!!*



*Where'd
these
holes
come
from?!*



*Bail
out
this
water!!*

*Hurry up
and plug
these
holes!!*







How how am I supposed to put food in my children's mouths??



Why would they pay you with this...

What is this?



This always happens to me!

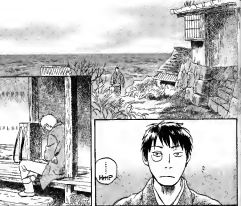
Can it be exchanged for money?



What happened here?

Um..?











And she's
getting
colder and
colder.

Her color
has gotten
a lot darker
even since
yesterday!

See her
skin...?



They build
nests by
making
holes in the
rocks on the
seashore.



Hey!

Do you
know
what's
happen-
ing?



The wind
blows
through the
holes making
a whistling
sound, and
they gather
at the
sound.



.....
Yobikoo.



...have
been
working
aboard a
ship?

Could
your
son...



But...
why
would
they be
here?



When
there are
too many
around...

...animals
with weak
constitu-
tions
become
poisoned.



Holes
started
forming
here right
after my
boy came
home.

Come
to think
of it...



Yes.

But the
ship he
served on
wound up
sinking.



What? He bought us some high-priced present. He's trying to sell it at a pawn shop now.



Where is he?



I'll call them from the house with this.



Hey, Ginica!

Is there a way to treat this?



Once I leave, fill the holes in the house with earth.



The first thing to do is get these menki far away from here.





Make
your
needs
here!

Make
your
needs
here!

Hey!



Make
your
needs
here!



Make
your
needs
here!







And even then, there aren't many that one can actually use as a float.

It only works if Yobiko make the holes.



They're absolutely useless in the hands of an amateur.

But that's why you can sell yours!

All you have to do is find another one.



The Yobiko...

What's wrong?

...are going back...!











People who use
it repeatedly...

And every-
one in the
surrounding
area gets
caught up
in it, too.

...event-
ually
destroy
their own
bodies.



This
thing...

...is used
to lead the
mushi back
where they
belong.



Onboard
the ship...

...I told
you about
the rock-
falls,
didn't I?



But
among
us...

...are
mushishi
who use it
for other
reasons.



...you
won't
be able
to turn
back.

If your
mother
dies like
this...

It'll
happen
to you,
too.



If you keep involving them for your own reasons, it'll lead to a bad end.



That must'd have their own business to tend to.

You said it yourself.



It's your special skill.
And how you use it is up to you.



...depends on what decisions you make.

What kind of person you turn out to be...



The reason
that
Torikaze
have calls
similar
to the
whistle...

...is because
Yobiko
is their
favorite
prey.



When
dawn
breaks,
call the
Torikaze.





Don't you have any sympathy at all?



Here they come!



!







...no one in
the village
ever saw
that young
man again.

After
that...





PLEASE

LO
A

I have
no
idea...

They must
have some
weird con-
traption
aboard.







There's
a reason for
that. I don't
die yet,
I see.



gratefully

As long as
I'm not
dying



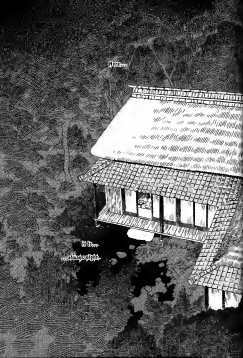
Thank
you for
the...

Food.

Back

I was then

gratefully
frightened
at all.



Stars in the Jar of the Sky



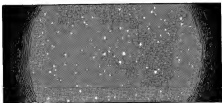




The moon
that
glows in
the night...



I wonder
what's on
the other
side...



Just
saying...

...everything
feels
beautiful.

Such a
strange
feeling.



...to
remember
anything...

...it comes
much of a
feeling.

Just
saying...





Sorry,
but I'm
coming
in.



Who
is it?



Hm...

It's
a big
house...



.....
I'm just
about
out of
time.



Hey!

Isn't
anybody
here?







...spouting
that kind of
crap?!

Now
they've
even
got
you...



.....
I'm
playing
a game
with
Izumi.



Leave it to
your father.
I'm on the
job. And now
you have to
stop this
kind of talk!

Listen,
Izumi
was kid-
napped...

..I'm
absolutely
certain of
it!



Stop
it right
now!

Your
mother
is calling
in one
of those
weird guys
again!



...actually
seen her.

But...

...I've...







...they forget
how to get
back, or
even why
they'd
want to.

If a
person
stays
longer...



The time
when the
alignment is
right is very
short.



...since
she's
adjusted
so well
to her
situation.

Espe-
cially
for
her...



Tomor-
row...

...I'll try
to align
things
again.



Yeah.

But I doubt you can see her.



.....
Izumi is in the house, too, isn't she?



But somebody is constantly taking my doll away.

Izumi always did that.

Even though she had a doll of her own.



.....
I know it.



Can you see her?

No...



So even now,
Izumi and I
play Hide the
Doll.



Where
will it be
today?



It's...
gone
again.







What's that
sup-
posed to mean?

I don't
know
anything
about a
well!



And you
came
to "this
side."



You...

...fell into
an old well
on the hill
behind
your house.



You're
pretty
far
along...

...in con-
forming
yourself
to the
water
here.



This is
my house
here!



It's up
beyond
that sky.

That's
where
people are
waiting.



But...

...your
place is actu-
ally...

...where
there are
people
waiting
for you.



Your mother
has been
waiting,
making your
meal every
day.

And your
older sister
has been
playing
"Hide the
Doll" with
you.



This
place...

...isn't
where
you're
supposed
to be!

Come
on,
remem-
ber!





.....
Eh?



What
is it...

That
did it.



Come
back!

Izumi!



Izumi!



Izumi!

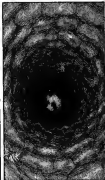




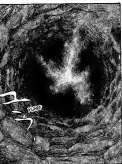














...look
down the
well, and
call as
loudly as
you can.

If you see
smoke rising
from the
well...



We'll use
about
two
mush.



They're
still
there.

Good!



If we can get her out, they will probably return.

She will most likely have lost her memories.



Right now, I'm going to try to align with Izumi-san again.



If it works out the right way...

...then your voices...

...should carry to Izumi-san.



But...

...we're under a time limit.



If it looks like I'll run out of time...

...I'll try to connect this side to this side by force.

I've laid most of the groundwork for it.











It's like...

...a far-off world...

...that you've never heard of before...



...is probably because the Light Flow is moving away from the well.

The reason why there are fewer...



What you experienced is a thing that happens...

...when you touch a large quantity of them.



Hmm...



...is now...

...saying goodbye to you.





Is it not
deep in the
ground?"



Is it
satisfying?

Is it
lightening?

... crystal
clear water...

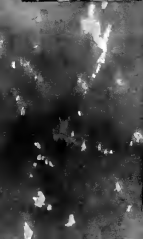
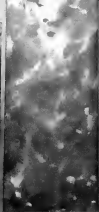
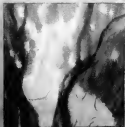
... where
an infinite
number...

Is it freely?

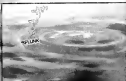
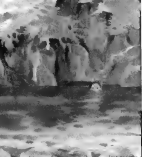
and stars
flow.













Aquamarine











...points of interest that coincide with records left by mumsiki... people in my profession.

There are quite a few...



And in rare instances...

...people with swelling on their hands and faces.



His low body temperature.

His difficulty with words.



I'm saying that if the cause turns out to be mumsiki, there's a medicine that should alleviate its effects.



Will you please get to the point?

Just what are you trying to imply here?





It enters
in with
the rain
and flows
down
rivers...

When they
form up in a
group, they
follow the
rivers down-
stream look-
ing very much
like a large,
blue fish.

Its
individual
form is
too small
to see with
the naked
eye.

There's
a mushi
called
Iko...

...within
your
son's
body.



...as they go downriver, parts of the group get left in the deep pools.

In order to protect themselves from being eaten, they become a parasitic infection in the bodies of salamanders and other animals.



The young rise with the evaporating water...

Eventually, they get to the sea and spawn.

...become rain, and fall in the mountains to join the mountain streams.



They're just like any other living thing, but...



...but in cases like your son's, it will be impossible to remove them completely.

When that happens, they can revive the person...



And on very rare occasions...

...they infect the corpses of people who have drowned in the water.



When floods come, their instinct is to ride the river down to the sea, so they'd leave his body on their own.

But who knows when that'll happen?



So for the time being...

Give him this medicine and keep an eye on him.



















Before, he
wanted a full
pitcher of
water every
day...

...but
now he's
down to
less than
a third
of that.

Yes...

His body
tempera-
ture is
much
higher.

It looks
like the
medicine
was
effective.



I'm hoping
you can
let us
have more
of the
medicine.

Thank
you so
much!



That's
good
to
hear.



The Uko don't have an affinity for land animals.

No patient has ever stayed infected for this long.

They infect things like salamanders. Then the animals are assimilated and they disappear into the water.



There probably won't be any more progress after this.

I need to warn you...



The mushi haven't left, right?



But...

...my boy will be okay, right?

I see...



Uko are...

...pests where those animals are concerned.











Yūta!!



.....
What are
you say-
ing?

Stop
right
there!!



Ginko-
san!

I heard
that you've
been having
a lot of
rain.



.....
YūtaP!

Where
are
youP!



If there's
much
more,
we'll see
flash
floods.



!



This will be dangerous, but...

...if we can manage this right, we may be able to get the Liko out of him.

...
If you're willing to take the risk, then help me.



This is so the people of the village...

I'm sorry, but...

...please try to bear it!

...will finally accept you as one of them.

...will end up no different from the other boys in town!

...succeed in this, then you...

If we...





.....
**What
are you
saying?!**



**Stop
that
right
now!!**



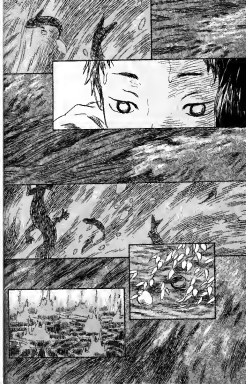
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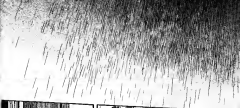
.....
**...have
to go
now.**



**I am not
letting
you go
anywhere!!**

.....
**I am
not...**















.....
Yell



Where...

...did he
disappear
to...?





"Say
Mother..."

"Where
does the
river come
from?"



Where
is he?!



"It falls
from the
clouds as
rain."

"Where is
it before
it gets
to the
valley?"



"It comes
from a valley
deep in the
mountains."



"That's
where the
river flows
down to."

"The
sea?"

"It's a
place with
a whole
lot of
water."



"Before
that?"
Where do
the clouds
come
from?"

"They
float up
from the
sea."



Why
would...

...the
boy...







I
was...

...about
nine
months
before I
gave birth
to my child.



I suppose
it rained in
the moun-
tains.

I got the
feeling that
the river
is flow-
ing much
faster than
normal
today.





...I realized
that I was
carrying
my
husband's
child.

After
that...



When I
came
to...

...I was
on the
shore.



I feel deep
gratitude
from the
bottom of
my heart.

Some-
how the
new life
was safe
within
me.

...until
I found
at the
bottom
of a deep
part of
the river.

But my
hus-
band...



Oh,
no...!



We're
almost
there!
Keep it
up!



The baby...
...was so cold!



Take-
son...

I'm so
sorry to
have to
tell you
this...



The child
was...
...definitely
still alive!

!!



But...



Just
coronal
ribbons...

...are sub-
merged in
the water
of the
womb.

At that point,
they're closer
to frogs or
amphibious
salamanders
than they are
to humans.



That
boy...

...were
infected
by Liko at
that stage
of life.



So why...
why
now...



...but
I was
over-
joyed

Every-
one... said
it was an
atrocity...



He was
so dif-
ferent...

...and
still, he
stayed
alive for
me!



...he and the
Uko formed
deep bonds
such that they
couldn't be
separated.



Then, while
developing
in the
womb...



The only
reason he
was safe
within your
womb...

...was
because
the Uko
infected you
and saved
your life.



If they
hadn't,
neither you
nor the boy
would have
survived your
dreaming.



You
mean...

...because
I was pos-
sessed
by those
things...



Yūta...

Where have you gone to...?



The river, maybe?

The sea?

The rain?



"...the rain and the clouds..."

"...the sea, the river..."

"That..."



"That's right!"

"They may take different forms, but they're all the same."



But he's alive!



...and he is alive!



He is here...



"There's
nothing to
be afraid
of."



"You're
here. I can
find you
everywhere."

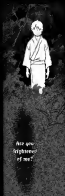
...
You're
right."





The Bed of Grass

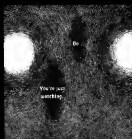




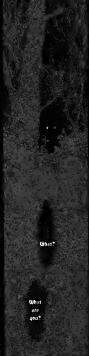
Are you
impressed
of me?



Are you
going
to eat
me?



You're just
watching.



What?

What
are
you?



「You're
trying
to figure
out...」





well, it
looks like
you're a
human
child.



...and
white
hair.



with a
green
eye...



The
strange-
looking kid
who brings
disaster
wherever he
goes.

Your
body
draws
misaki
to it.

I've
heard
rumors
of you.



If you'd simply move on, you'd decrease the number of disasters.

Why stay if your body draws mushi to it?



Did you get thrown out after-ward?

I've also heard that several mushishi took you in.



I draw the mushi to a place, and the mushishi cures the problem.

.....
We did it to eat.



My name's Suguro.

I work as a mushishi on this mountain.



.....
But sometimes the mushishi can't handle the problem.



So the ones who took you in were all of that kind...?





...my
body
will go
back to
normal?

Then,
if you
can get
them
out...



Let me
guess.
There's a
time in your
life that
you have no
memories of,
right?

Those
memories
were also
eaten by
the
Tokoyami.



People
like you
appear
on rare
occasions.

The thing
that draws
the muski
is ber-
cally...
you.

Nobody
has
a cure
for it.

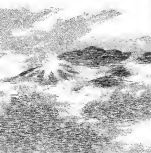


Tokoyami
don't
draw
other
muski
to them.

The
Tokoyami
look; your
eye and
memories.
That's
all.











You should also learn how to make anti-mushi tobacco.

It isn't just to weaken the effects of mushi on the surroundings...



...It should also help relieve you from some of your mushi sicknesses.



It's beautiful here, isn't it?





You!

Suguro!



You're
not
allowed
to stay
very
long,
but...

...If you
come
to visit
it every
now and
again...

...the
master
won't
make
any com-
plaints.



I'm
taking
care of
him for
a short
while.

Oh,
him?

You could
consider
him
some-
thing of a
disciple.



Hey.

I've
never
seen
this boy
before.







And that's what's got everyone worried.

If a mountain is without a master for too long, it goes to seed.



But we haven't seen any sign of the next master.



I said it, didn't I?

It'd be like spring arriving but not one flower coming into bloom.



...
What happens if none shows up?



Eventually the environment would be ruined.



There's a deep connection between "nature" and the mountain...

...and the master's the proof of that.



The master is the personification of the "nature" of things.



The feeling that the master is watching is gone.



Ch. 5





...that
the
murder
has
died.



My
gunfire
is...



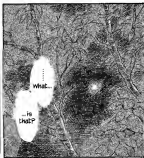
.....
what
hap-
pened?

You
stay
here.

I'm
going to
check the
mountain.











One...

...is
finally
being
born!



It's
incred-
ible...



Oh, yes.
I'm
sure.



That
one
popped
out of
my
mouth.



It's the
exact
opposite
of a
stone.

It's
nothing.

...nothing.



Nothing
there.





what
was I
thinking?



That'd be
stupid!







.....
What was that?

What...

...In the
hell hap-
pened...?

What
can I
do...?

What'll
I do?





It's
going
to



Man-
tra P



...what I
should do
now!



Please,
let me
know...

Are you
alive?



...do
whatever
you want
with me,
but...//

You
can...



Please...

Wait
for
me!



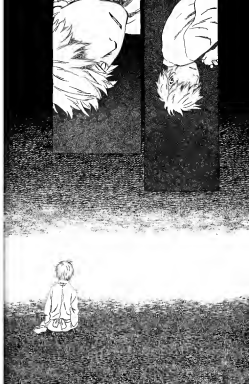
Master!
You
know
every-
thing,
right?!

You
can
do
any-
thing,
right?



I have
to get
it all...

...back
to the
way it
was!





The light
from...?



What...
please...?



Director?







HOME.



Home
is not
a place
you
find.

I never
had...

any
place to
go home
to right
from the
start.



But...

it was never
any more.



300 The
Theory
are

turning
the
1992

Keep it...!

Gotta do you always...

...have to keep getting in my way...?!

Keep it...!

Gotta do you always...

...have to keep getting in my way...?!

**Stop
H...!**



...
He was
29

Were
you...

...always
alive in
there?













Then
for a
while...

...we'll
have to
close the
moun-
tain.



I see...



What will
happen...
to the
moun-
tain
now?



Has the
"nature"
disap-
peared
from it?



...they
were
"nature."

Those
things
that you
met...



...then
it must
be only a
matter of
time be-
fore a new
master
appears.

if they
took the
master's
life into
their
hands...

if the
flowers
that ap-
pear above
ground are
the mas-
ter...



...then
those
beings
were the
roots.

Now...

...it's time
for you to
start your
travels
again.

Hi...

...want
to see
your face
again.

I
never...

I
can't...

...forgive
you for
what you
did.

.....
Sigh...





00141

00142



I guess
I'll rest
up a bit in
this area.



"I never..."



"It's
true
for you
too."

"Nature itself
allowed you to
come back."



"...every
person and
place has
a right to
exist."

"In this
world..."



"...want
to see
your face
again."

"But..."
"...make
sure you
don't
forget..."



"The entire
world as a
whole..."

"...is your
home."





The saying goes, "If you whistle at night, the mistle will come out," but they say that of other things, too, like ghosts or rubbers. All of the things that "come out" are bad things. It's really a warning about how you shouldn't become lost in your own world of night.

At night is when I want to whistle. I think it fits the mood better. That's probably even more reason for the saying to be banned down.

The mistle

"When sunset comes, an old person tries to go home, even if they already are home." I heard somewhere that this is one of the first signs of senility. I know that it's an attempt by the brain to bring back memories from long ago, but it must be very painful for those living with the elderly person at the time. I think that sunset is a time when a person's heart works hardest of all.

Feel as if Sunset

Afterward

Thank you for picking up this volume well

The idea that wells are portals into other worlds is an idea handed down from ancient times. To the ancients, it must have been as though water, colder than anything found above ground, came out of a world of

nothingness. It was undoubtedly a strange and wonderful thing to them.

There is the Jar of the Sky

And now, I pray that we can meet again next time.

After the "The Sound of Tattered Grass" story in volume 4, I was torn over whether it was necessary to draw everything that happened to Ginko that made him who he is today, or to leave it a mystery. And then I decided that I wanted to tell how he came to be accepted by the mist. It was a hard decision to make, but now I'm glad I drew it.

Feel of Grass

Near my mother's old family home, there's a deep spot in the river they call Iyida (the dragon's mouth). They used to have drownings or near-drownings there, and so a long time ago they built a shrine over it. The children all considered it a scary place. The image of that place was the basis for this story.

Apparitions

<Thank You>
Taya-chan,
Hayashi
Mika &
Yoshi,
Taka-chan,
and Yone

Translation Notes



Grandma and Grandpa, page 8

Elderly couples calling each other Grandma and Grandpa is common in Western nations, but it is even more common in Japan. Following in the Japanese tradition where job titles such as *sensei* (teacher or doctor) can be substituted for names, the Japanese have long used family titles as a substitute for names as well.

Honorifics between family members, page 9

In most cases, honorifics are dropped between husbands and wives as a display of intimacy, but there are occasions where the honorific is used. The addition of "-san" or "-sama" (usually the wife adds the honorific to her husband's name) may have all sorts of motivations behind it. Examples include indicating respect; recalling the days when the couple was just dating; or putting emotional distance between husband and wife during an argument.

Oni, page 20

Although there exists a myriad of sinister Japanese fantasy creatures, the main baddies are Oni. Often translated to "Ogre" in English, the Oni are brutish bad guys who terrorize villagers, play pranks, pillage, burn, and eat babies. They are most famous as the antagonists of the fairytale *Momotarō*, but they appear in uncounted additional legends and stories. This is the first time this translator has heard of a "changeling" concept associated with Oni, but I'm not surprised by it.



Ômagadoki, page 26

Ômagadoki is an older Japanese word for twilight. It is not often heard today, as other words such as *yûgure* are in wider use. The name of the *mushi* uses exactly the same kanji as in the Japanese word.

Torikaze, page 34

Like most *mushi* names, the name *Torikaze* makes perfect sense. *Tori* is the Japanese word for bird, and *kaze* means wind. So the *mushi* are given the name "wind birds."

Yobika, page 72

Yobika (or *yobika*), using the kanji for *yobu* which means "to call," and the kanji for *ko* which means "child," is a word that means "police whistle." But in the case of the *mushi*, the *ko* for "child" is substituted for the *ko* for "mushi," making a *mushi* name that sounds a lot like the word for "whistle."

I'm home, page 129

The Japanese standard phrase one says when one comes home (or comes back to a place one very regularly frequents) is *tadama*, which roughly translates to "I have just now arrived." But since coming home after a long absence is such an emotional event, the word *tadama* can bring out powerful feelings in Japanese readers (just as the idea of "coming home" can bring out powerful emotions in English-language readers).

***Isei*, page 130**

The *i* of the name for the mushi-based phenomenon *isei* means "well," and *sei* means stars. So the name translates out logically to "well stars."



***Uko*, page 147**

This is another straightforward mushi name. The *u* is the pronunciation of a kanji that means "rain," and as in *Yabiko* above, *ko* means "mushi." So this one means "rain mushi."

Nine months, page 179

The original dialog in Japanese didn't say "about nine months" before Yûta was born; it actually said, "about ten months." According to Japanese tradition, pregnancy lasts ten months and ten days. I am not quite sure what causes the discrepancy between Japanese and Western counting—possibly a difference in exactly when each culture considers to be the start of the pregnancy—but it left me with a dilemma. I had to change the number of months to the number of months that Western notions figure is a full term for a pregnancy. If I had left it ten months, readers might have concluded that she conceived Yûta after she drowned and after her husband had died.

***Tokoyami*, page 194**

This mushi was first described near the end of volume 3. *Toku* means eternal and *yami* means darkness. If it seems unusual that Ginko acts as if he's hearing the name for the first time, remember that his memories of his time with Nui (as well as nearly all of his life before that) were wiped clean by the Tokoyami at the end of the chapter.